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ABSTRACT

Based on data from surveys of students enrolled in spring 1993 and spring 1996, the four briefs provided in this report describe alcohol and drug use among students at California's College of the Canyons. The first brief addresses the frequency of alcohol use by students, indicating that 15% of the 1996 students reported drinking three or more times per week, compared to 9% of the 1993 students, and that nearly 80% of the 1996 students reported using alcohol in the past year. The second brief focuses on the number of binge drinking episodes in the 2 weeks before the survey was administered, revealing that 29% of the 1996 students reported having binged, up from 25% in spring 1993. The third brief presents data on the prevalence of drug use by students in the previous year, indicating that 33.7% of the 1996 reported using marijuana, up 7.8% from 1993, and that 6.5% of the 1996 students reported using cocaine, another 6.5% designer drugs, 10.9% amphetamines, and 9.7% hallucinogens. The final brief presents data on the number of 1996 students reporting consequences resulting from drug or alcohol use, finding that 55.1% reported having a hangover, 2.3% were arrested for drunk driving, and 33.3% reported driving while under the influence. (AJL)

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1 Out of Every 7 Students Say Drinking Not Confined to Weekends

Alcohol is the most widely used drug of students at College of the Canyons. The following table summarizes the frequency of use by students "in the last year."

Data is presented for students from Spring 1993 and for Spring 1996. Representative sampling techniques were used to collect the 1996 data. The 1993 data had proportionate representation by gender, but not by age or race/ethnicity. The 1993 respondents were younger and more diverse racially and ethnically than the total student population.

Over 15% of the 1996 students reported drinking three or more times per week, compared to 9% of the 1993 students. This indicates that drinking is not confined to weekends. Nearly 80% of the 1996 students reported using alcohol in the last year, compared with 78% of the 1993 students.

Core Alcohol and Drug Survey College of the Canyons Frequency of Alcohol Use by Students Within the Past Year

Frequency	1993	1996	Change
Never	22.3%	20.4%	- 2.4%
Once a year	12.8%	9.6%	- 3.2%
Six times a year	13.9%	14.1%	+ 0.2%
Once a month	9.2%	9.4%	+ 0.2%
Twice a month	16.3%	11.7%	- 4.6%
Once a week	15.6%	19.8%	+ 4.2%
3-5 times a week	8.8%	13.9%	+ 5.1%
Daily	0.5%	1.2%	+ 0.7%
Sample Size	553	669	

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3 out of Every 10 Students Report Binge Drinking

In most research literature on alcohol use, binge drinking is defined as consumption of five or more drinks in one sitting. The following table reports the number of binge drinking episodes by College of the Canyons students two weeks prior to survey administration in May 1993 and February 1996. Overall, 25% of the 1993 students and 29% of the 1996 students reported having binged in the last two weeks.

Note that 3% of the 1996 students reported six or more binges in the last two weeks. This means a minimum of 30 drinks per two weeks per student solely from bingeing, and in all likelihood there is greater alcohol consumption than that.

Representative sampling techniques were used to collect the 1996 data. The 1993 data had proportionate representation by gender, but not by age or race/ethnicity. The 1993 respondents were younger and more racially diverse than the total student population.

Core Alcohol and Drug Survey College of the Canyons Binge Drinking Episodes in the Last Two Weeks

<u>Number of episodes</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>Change</u>
None	74.6%	71.0%	- 3.6%
Once	11.8%	13.3%	+ 1.5
Twice	5.4%	5.7%	+ 0.3
3 - 5 times	5.9%	6.6%	+ 0.7
6 - 9 times	0.7%	1.9%	+ 1.2
10 or more	1.6%	1.5%	- 0.1
Sample size	559	669	

1 out of Every 3 Students Report Using Marijuana

There is significant national concern over the use and consequences of drugs in our society. The following table presents the prevalence of drug use "in the last year" by students at College of the Canyons. Alcohol and marijuana were the most frequently used drugs in both 1993 and 1996. Steroids, opiates, inhalants, and other illegal drugs were the least used drugs by 1996 students. Cocaine and designer drugs were used by nearly 7% of the 1996 students while hallucinogens and amphetamines were used by about 10% of the 1996 students.

Representative sampling techniques were used to collect the 1996 data. The 1993 data had proportionate representation by gender, but not by age or race/ethnicity. The 1993 respondents were younger and racially and ethnically diverse than the total student body.

Core Alcohol and Drug Survey College of the Canyons Percentage of Students Reporting Using Drug One or More Times Within Last Year

Substance	1993	1996	Change
Alcohol	77.2%	79.6%	+ 2.4%
Marijuana (pot, hash, hash oil)	25.9%	33.7%	+ 7.8%
Amphetamines (diet pills, speed)	6.7%	10.9%	+ 4.2%
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP)	6.2%	9.7%	+ 3.5%
Cocaine (crack, rock, freebase)	3.3%	6.5%	+ 3.2%
Designer drugs (ecstasy, MDMA)	3.3%	6.5%	+ 3.2%
Inhalants (glue, solvents, gas)	3.1%	3.2%	+ 0.1%
Sedatives (downers, ludes)	1.1%	4.3%	+ 3.2%
Steroids	0.7%	0.6%	- 0.1%
Opiates (heroin, smack, horse)	0.5%	1.1%	+ 0.6%
Other illegal drugs	2.2%	2.9%	+ 0.7%
Sample size	545-552	656-662	

1 Out of Every 3 Students Report Driving While Under the Influence

The following table lists the self-reported consequences of alcohol and other drug use by College of the Canyons students during the last year. Several findings are relevant to the academic environment. About one-fifth of the students reported that they performed poorly on a test or important project due to substance use (18.3%) or missed a class due to substance use (18.9%). More than half the students (55.1%) reported experiencing a hangover within the past year. Also, 21.1 percent reported memory loss or blackouts, and 46.4 percent reported becoming sick or nauseated.

A substantial contrast exists between the 33.3 percent of students who had driven under the influence and the 2.3 percent who had been arrested for drunk driving.

Core Alcohol and Drug Survey College of the Canyons Percent of Students Reporting Consequences Resulting from Drug or Alcohol Use One or More Times During the Past Year

<u>Consequences</u>	<u>1996</u>
Had a hangover	55.1%
Got nauseated or vomited	46.4%
Had a memory loss or blackouts	21.1%
Missed a class	18.9%
Performed poorly on a test or project	18.3%
Got into an argument or fight	27.6%
Been hurt or injured	11.8%
Been in trouble with police, residence hall, or other college authorities	8.5%
Damaged property, pulled fire alarm, etc.	6.7%
Driven a car under the influence	33.3%
Been arrested for DWI/DUI	2.3%

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on back)

Have been taken advantage of sexually	12.3%
Have taken advantage of another sexually	4.9%
Seriously thought about suicide	10.2%
Seriously tried to commit suicide	3.8%
Sample size	649-656
